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221125Z Aug 01

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ4895

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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	COR-01	AGRE-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00
	EB-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	AC-01
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	BGG-00
	PMB-00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/006W		

-----151F17 221422Z /68

FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9522
INFO SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
DEPT OF AGRICULTURE USD FAS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 HARARE 002480

SIPDIS

CORRECTED COPY - USDA FAS WASHDC ADDED AS ADDEE NOT AS A PASS TO

STATE FOR AF, AF/S, AND AF/EPS

USAID FOR AFR/SA, NAN NEWMAN, LANCE DOWNING, AND C.W.T.
HAGELMAN; ALSO FOR B/HR/FFP JON BRAUSE

PRETORIA FOR AGATT RICK HELMS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/22/03

TAGS: [PREL](#) [EAD](#) [EAGR](#) [ZI](#)

SUBJECT: UNDP AND DONORS MEET ON FOOD AID FOR ZIMBABWE

REF: ROME 4322

CLASSIFIED BY DCM REWHITEHEAD DUE TO 1.5 (B) AND (D).

1. (C) SUMMARY. UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE VICTOR ANGELO MET WITH A LARGE SEGMENT OF THE DONOR COMMUNITY ON AUGUST 20 AT THE FORMER'S INVITATION TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS ON THE FOOD AID FRONT. THE GROUP FOCUSED IN SEQUENCE ON THE DIMENSIONS OF THE CRISIS, ESTABLISHMENT OF A HUMANITARIAN SECRETARIAT WITHIN UNDP, AND POSSIBLE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES. ANGELO DESCRIBED HIGH-LEVEL GOZ RESISTANCE TO REQUESTING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE DESPITE INCREASINGLY RELIABLE, BUT SO FAR INCONSISTENT, PROJECTIONS THAT THERE WILL BE FOOD SHORTAGES BY EARLY NEXT YEAR. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT CURRENT CONDITIONS ON COMMERCIAL FARMS COULD FURTHER AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION. ANGELO SAID THAT HE PLANS TO ESTABLISH IMMEDIATELY A RELIEF AND RECOVERY UNIT, WITH OR WITHOUT GOZ APPROVAL THAT IN FACT WOULD BE A UN PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT MECHANISM. ON THE PROGRAMMATIC FRONT, MOST DONORS ARE RELUCTANT TO COMMIT SPECIFIC RESOURCES UNTIL VIABLE DELIVERY MECHANISMS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND A MORE QUANTITATIVE PICTURE OF THE GRAIN SHORTAGE AND THE POTENTIAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO PAY FOR IT HAVE BEEN EXPLORED. WHILE WE SHARE ANGELO'S VIEWS THAT A SHORTAGE IS NEARLY CERTAIN, WE HAVE MANY RESERVATIONS AT THIS POINT ABOUT THE BEST WAY TO ADDRESS IT. WE INTEND TO GET A BETTER HANDLE OF THESE ISSUES WITH A SENSE OF URGENCY. END SUMMARY.

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THE CRISIS: LET THEM EAT MAIZE

2. (C) ANGELO AND A TEAM OF UN OFFICIALS KICKED OFF THE MEETING WITH DUTCH, GERMAN, DFID, SWEDEN, NORWEGIAN, JAPANESE, FRENCH, DANISH, AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVES BY REVIEWING THE FOOD CRISIS. ANGELO CHARACTERIZED THE SITUATION AS "EXTREMELY DIFFICULT" DUE TO WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THE GOZ POSITION. HE ASSERTED THAT WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIALS IN RELEVANT LINE MINISTRIES UNDERSTAND THERE IS A DIFFICULT "HUMANITARIAN" SITUATION AHEAD AND HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE ON A DOCUMENT AND A DRAFT LETTER TO THE UN REQUESTING EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE NOT YET SUCCEEDED IN GETTING THE GREEN LIGHT FROM THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, WHICH THEY CLAIM IS UNWILLING TO TALK OF HUMANITARIAN NEED FOR "POLITICAL" REASONS.

3. (U) THE LATEST FIGURES FROM THE GRAIN MARKETING BOARD (GMB) AND STRATEGIC GRAIN RESERVE (SGR) INDICATE THAT SHORTAGES LIE AHEAD. ANGELO SAID THAT GMB HAS ONLY 87 METRIC TONS OF WHEAT ON HAND, WITH THE REMAINDER (APPROXIMATELY 40,500 MT) IN PRIVATE HANDS. ANGELO

ESTIMATED THIS AS ABOUT SIX WEEKS OF SUPPLY. MAIZE IS SIMILARLY PROBLEMATIC, SINCE BOTH SMALL HOLDERS AND COMMERCIAL FARMERS ARE HOLDING BACK THEIR STOCKS FROM THE MARKET. (THIS COULD BE A WHOLLY WISE BUSINESS DECISION IN THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF RAMPANT INFLATION WHERE COMMODITIES ARE WORTH MORE THAN

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DEPRECIATING CASH.) THE GMB HAS ONLY BEEN ABLE TO PURCHASE 32,000 MT TO DATE. SGR STOCKS ARE BEING DRAWN DOWN AND WITH MARKET PRICES INCREASING, THE SGR IS PROBABLY SHOWING A PROFIT ON PAPER, BUT IN HIGHLY OVERVALUED CURRENCY. THE CRUX OF THE PROBLEM IS THE GMB'S OFFERING PRICE OF ZIMBABWE DOLLAR (ZD) 7,500/MT, FAR BELOW THE ZD 12,000/MT OFFERED BY PRIVATE SECTOR BUYERS BEFORE THE GMB TOOK MONOPOLISTIC CONTROL OF THE MARKET AND PROBABLY LESS THAN PRODUCER COST. (COMMENT: THIS TOO REFLECTS THE MARKET AT WORK OUTSIDE THE PARASTATAL GRAIN BOARDS, AND FURTHER SHOWS THE INCREASING SCARCITY OF MAIZE AND WHEAT AND THE STEEP DECLINE OF THE ZD.)

14. (SUB) TO FURTHER COMPLICATE MATTERS, THE GMB HAS ZD 1.3 BILLION BUDGETED FOR THE PURCHASING CAMPAIGN; ZD 6 BILLION IS REQUIRED TO PURCHASE THE ENTIRE CROP. THE GMB NOW HOLDS 258,000 MT OF MAIZE, WITH ANOTHER 60,000 MT IN PRIVATE HANDS, A SUPPLY THAT COULD BE STRETCHED TO MEET FOUR MONTHS OF CONSUMPTION.

15. (SBU) THERE ARE ADDITIONAL, LONGER-TERM CONCERNS AS WELL. ANGELO SAID THAT HE IS NOT SURE THAT THE WHEAT NOW IN THE FIELDS WILL BE HARVESTED. THE CURRENT OPTIONS FOR COMMERCIAL FARMERS ARE TO HARVEST AND SELL

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	PMB-00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/006W		
				-----151F24	221423Z	/68	

O 221125Z AUG 01 ZEL
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9523
INFO SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
DEPT OF AGRICULTURE USD FAS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 HARARE 002480

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USAID FOR AFR/SA, NAN NEWMAN, LANCE DOWNING, AND C.W.T. HAGELMAN; ALSO FOR B/HR/FFP JON BRAUSE

PRETORIA FOR AGATT RICK HELMS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/22/03

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PAGE 02 HARARE 02480 02 OF 03 221423Z
SUBJECT: UNDP AND DONORS MEET ON FOOD AID FOR ZIMBABWE

AT A LOSS, HARVEST AND HOLD (RISKING LOOTING, CONFISCATION, OR ARREST IF THE FOOD SITUATION DRASTICALLY SOURS), OR TO LEAVE IT IN THE FIELDS TO ROT. ANGELO SAID THAT IN HIS RECENT TRAVELS THROUGH RURAL AREAS, HE HAD SEEN LITTLE LAND PREPARATION UNDERWAY FOR THE RAINY SEASON. (WE HAVE HEARD SIMILAR STORIES BUT CANNOT QUANTIFY WHAT THE SPECIFIC IMPLICATIONS ARE OTHER THAN LESS GRAIN IS LIKELY TO BE HARVESTED.) THERE WERE ALSO MORE SQUATTERS IN EVIDENCE, AND GROWING CHAOS SWIRLING AROUND THE ENTIRE RESETTLEMENT INITIATIVE.

16. (C) ANGELO CALCULATED (BY WHAT METHODOLOGY WE DON'T KNOW) THAT IN SPITE OF THE MANY VARIABLES, A 300-400,000 MT SHORTAGE IS LIKELY IN 2002. DESPITE RUMORS THAT THE GOZ WILL FORGO (UNSPECIFIED) EXTERNAL DEBT PAYMENTS AND USE REVENUE FOR GOLD SALES TO FINANCE COMMERCIAL PURCHASES, UNDP CONTACTS IN THE FINANCE MINISTRY SAY THAT THEY ARE NOT PRIVY TO HOW THE GOZ WILL COME UP WITH THE REQUIRED FOREX TO PAY FOR A SIZABLE AMOUNT OF IMPORTS. IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES FROM THE DONORS, ANGELO SPECULATED THAT NGOS, INCLUDING MANY FAITH-BASED GROUPS,

WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO MAKE UP FOR COMMERCIAL
SHORTFALLS THROUGH NON-GOVERNMENTAL DISTRIBUTION
PROGRAMS IN RURAL AREAS. HE STATED BLUNTLY THAT HE
THOUGHT THAT GOZ/ZANU INSIDERS SEE SUCH "HUMANITARIAN"
INITIATIVES AS A TROJAN HORSE THAT COULD HAVE MUCH WIDER
IMPLICATIONS FOR ELECTORAL EDUCATION, HUMAN RIGHTS
ACTIVITIES, AND PROMOTION OF THE OPPOSITION. HE SAID
THAT "OUR FRIEND JOSEPH (CHINOTIMBMA)" AND HIS ILK
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RISKED RUNNING THE NGOS OUT OF RURAL AREAS FASTER THAN
THEY WENT IN.

HUMANITARIAN SECRETARIAT: WHAT'S IN A NAME?

17. (C) ANGELO ADMITTED THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO PROGRESS
IN LAUNCHING A PROPOSED UNDP HUMANITARIAN SECRETARIAT,
ORIGINALLY EXPECTED TO COMMENCE OPERATIONS IN AUGUST,
BECAUSE THE GOZ HAS NOT GIVEN UNDP A GREEN LIGHT. (THE
SWEDES, DUTCH AND US HAVE AGREED TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR
THIS INITIATIVE.) ANGELO SAID THAT HE MAY HAVE NO
OPTION BUT TO MOVE AHEAD AND ESTABLISH THIS
UNILATERALLY, BRINGING IT IN UNDER THE GOZ'S RADAR USING
THE RUBRIC OF A "RELIEF AND RECOVERY UNIT". ABSENT GOZ
APPROVAL OR TERMS OF REFERENCE, HE WOULD BILL THIS AS AN
INTEGRAL PART OF UNDP PROGRAMMING.

PROGRAM THE PROBLEM

18. (C) ANGELO SAID THAT THIS APPROACH (ALSO A TROJAN
HORSE) WOULD PERMIT EXPEDITIOUS PLANNING. NONETHELESS,
IT WOULD REQUIRE COSMETIC PROGRAMS -- CHILD SURVIVAL
NEED ASSESSMENT, ETC. -- BEHIND WHICH IT COULD BEGIN
ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING FOR FOOD DELIVERY MECHANISMS.
SEVERAL OF THE DONORS RIGHTLY BALKED AT THIS. THE DFID
REPRESENTATIVE OBSERVED THAT IT MIGHT BE EASIER TO DO A
NUMBER OF SMALL REGIONAL BILATERAL PROGRAMS UNDER THE
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RADAR RATHER THAN A LARGER, MULTILATERAL EFFORT. THE
SWEDES AGREED, POINTING OUT THAT THE FOOD SHORTAGES
COULD PROVE TO CONFIRM INITIAL ASSUMPTIONS THAT THEY
WILL BE LOCALIZED. THE DFID TEAM ALSO REJECTED OUT OF
HAND RECENT GOZ SUGGESTIONS THAT A REGIONAL APPROACH BE
TAKEN, SINCE IN DFID'S VIEW THIS WOULD PERMIT THE GOZ TO
SANITIZE GRANT COMMODITIES THROUGH AN UPRIGHT NEIGHBOR
SUCH AS BOTSWANA BEFORE LAYING HANDS ON THE CEREALS FOR
GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS.

19. (C) OTHER PARTICIPANTS UNDERLINED THAT THE LACK OF
WFP EXPERTISE ON THE GROUND COULD BE A SERIOUS
IMPEDIMENT TO AN INDEPENDENT AND ACCURATE ASSESSMENT.
ANGELO SAID THAT FOR THE MOMENT HE WAS TAPPING WFP
PERSONNEL FROM ZAMBIA AND MOZAMBIQUE TO BRIDGE THE GAP.
THERE WAS A FINAL CONSENSUS AMONG THE DONORS THAT NONE
OF THEM FAVOR A RELIEF AND RECOVERY UNIT THAT AT THIS
TIME GOES BEYOND AN ASSESSMENT, MONITORING AND
COORDINATION ROLE. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE SWEDES,
EVERYONE WANTED TO SEE WHAT FOOD DELIVERY MECHANISMS
COULD BE IDENTIFIED BEFORE COMMITTING RESOURCES.

COMMENT

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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	COR-01	AGRE-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00
	EB-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	AC-01
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	PMB-00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/006W		

-----151F26 221424Z /68

O 221125Z AUG 01
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9524
INFO SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
DEPT OF AGRICULTURE USD FAS WASHDC

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SUBJECT: UNDP AND DONORS MEET ON FOOD AID FOR ZIMBABWE

110. (C) THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT A DOMESTIC SHORTFALL OF CEREALS IS A CERTAINTY, BUT THERE WAS NO CONCLUSIVE AGREEMENT ON HOW TO HANDLE THIS OR TO WHAT THE EXTENT OF EXTERNAL NON-COMMERCIAL ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE REQUIRED. FOR ITS PART, THE GOZ INPUT INTO THE MOST RECENT SADC FOOD EARLY WARNING SYSTEM REPORT INDICATES THAT THE GOZ PLANS TO PURCHASE COMMERCIALY 544,000 MT OF CEREAL AND RESTORE THE SGR TO A CARRYOVER SURPLUS OF 500,000 MT OF MAIZE AND 200,000 MT OF WHEAT. THE WFP IS STILL IN THE WATCHING PHASE (REFTEL) AND THE UNDP HERE FINDS ITSELF FLANKED BY A RECALCITRANT AND POLITICIZED GOZ ON ONE SIDE, AND SKEPTICAL DONORS ON THE OTHER.

111. (C) GIVEN THE WELTER OF CONFLICTING FIGURES AND APPROACHES, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/PLANNING WILL BE NECESSARY BEFORE A COHERENT BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL USG PROPOSAL CAN BE PLACED ON THE TABLE. THE MISSION WILL CONSULT WIDELY AND PROVIDE INPUT AS URGENTLY AS POSSIBLE. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED THAT ZIMBABWE'S EVOLVING ECONOMIC INSTABILITY, DRIVEN BY A STEEPLY DECLINING ZD AND UNREALISTIC EXCHANGE RATES, WILL HAVE A HEAVY AND MEASURABLE IMPACT ON THE FUTURE FOOD SITUATION AND THE GOZ'S ABILITY TO PURCHASE GRAIN COMMERCIALY, BOTH DOGMATICALLY AND FOR IMPORTS. THUS FAR THE GOZ DOES NOT SEEM TO BE TAKING THIS INTO ACCOUNT IN ITS CALCULATIONS.

ROTH

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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	EB-00
	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	AC-01	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00
	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	BBG-00	PMB-00
	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/005W			

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O 221125Z AUG 01
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9522
INFO SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 HARARE 002480

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CLASSIFIED BY DCM REWHITEHEAD DUE TO 1.5 (B) AND (D).

1. (C) SUMMARY. UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE VICTOR ANGELO MET WITH A LARGE SEGMENT OF THE DONOR COMMUNITY ON AUGUST 20 AT THE FORMER'S INVITATION TO DISCUSS

DEVELOPMENTS ON THE FOOD AID FRONT. THE GROUP FOCUSED IN SEQUENCE ON THE DIMENSIONS OF THE CRISIS, ESTABLISHMENT OF A HUMANITARIAN SECRETARIAT WITHIN UNDP, AND POSSIBLE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES. ANGELO DESCRIBED HIGH-LEVEL GOZ RESISTANCE TO REQUESTING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE DESPITE INCREASINGLY RELIABLE, BUT SO FAR INCONSISTENT, PROJECTIONS THAT THERE WILL BE FOOD SHORTAGES BY EARLY NEXT YEAR. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT CURRENT CONDITIONS ON COMMERCIAL FARMS COULD FURTHER AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION. ANGELO SAID THAT HE PLANS TO ESTABLISH IMMEDIATELY A RELIEF AND RECOVERY UNIT, WITH OR WITHOUT GOZ APPROVAL THAT IN FACT WOULD BE A UN PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT MECHANISM. ON THE PROGRAMMATIC FRONT, MOST DONORS ARE RELUCTANT TO COMMIT SPECIFIC RESOURCES UNTIL VIABLE DELIVERY MECHANISMS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND A MORE QUANTITATIVE PICTURE OF THE GRAIN SHORTAGE AND THE POTENTIAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO PAY FOR IT HAVE BEEN EXPLORED. WHILE WE SHARE ANGELO'S VIEWS THAT A SHORTAGE IS NEARLY CERTAIN, WE HAVE MANY RESERVATIONS AT THIS POINT ABOUT THE BEST WAY TO ADDRESS IT. WE INTEND TO GET A BETTER HANDLE OF THESE ISSUES WITH A SENSE OF URGENCY. END SUMMARY.

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THE CRISIS: LET THEM EAT MAIZE

12. (C) ANGELO AND A TEAM OF UN OFFICIALS KICKED OFF THE MEETING WITH DUTCH, GERMAN, DFID, SWEDEN, NORWEGIAN, JAPANESE, FRENCH, DANISH, AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVES BY REVIEWING THE FOOD CRISIS. ANGELO CHARACTERIZED THE SITUATION AS "EXTREMELY DIFFICULT" DUE TO WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THE GOZ POSITION. HE ASSERTED THAT WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIALS IN RELEVANT LINE MINISTRIES UNDERSTAND THERE IS A DIFFICULT "HUMANITARIAN" SITUATION AHEAD AND HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE ON A DOCUMENT AND A DRAFT LETTER TO THE UN REQUESTING EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE NOT YET SUCCEEDED IN GETTING THE GREEN LIGHT FROM THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, WHICH THEY CLAIM IS UNWILLING TO TALK OF HUMANITARIAN NEED FOR "POLITICAL" REASONS.

13. (U) THE LATEST FIGURES FROM THE GRAIN MARKETING BOARD (GMB) AND STRATEGIC GRAIN RESERVE (SGR) INDICATE THAT SHORTAGES LIE AHEAD. ANGELO SAID THAT GMB HAS ONLY 87 METRIC TONS OF WHEAT ON HAND, WITH THE REMAINDER (APPROXIMATELY 40,500 MT) IN PRIVATE HANDS. ANGELO ESTIMATED THIS AS ABOUT SIX WEEKS OF SUPPLY. MAIZE IS SIMILARLY PROBLEMATIC, SINCE BOTH SMALL HOLDERS AND COMMERCIAL FARMERS ARE HOLDING BACK THEIR STOCKS FROM THE MARKET. (THIS COULD BE A WHOLLY WISE BUSINESS DECISION IN THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF RAMPANT INFLATION WHERE COMMODITIES ARE WORTH MORE THAN DEPRECIATING CASH.) THE GMB HAS ONLY BEEN ABLE TO PURCHASE 32,000 MT TO DATE. SGR STOCKS ARE BEING DRAWN
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14. (SUB) TO FURTHER COMPLICATE MATTERS, THE GMB HAS ZD 1.3 BILLION BUDGETED FOR THE PURCHASING CAMPAIGN; ZD 6 BILLION IS REQUIRED TO PURCHASE THE ENTIRE CROP. THE GMB NOW HOLDS 258,000 MT OF MAIZE, WITH ANOTHER 60,000 MT IN PRIVATE HANDS, A SUPPLY THAT COULD BE STRETCHED TO MEET FOUR MONTHS OF CONSUMPTION.

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CANNOT QUANTIFY WHAT THE SPECIFIC IMPLICATIONS ARE OTHER
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16. (C) ANGELO CALCULATED (BY WHAT METHODOLOGY WE DON'T
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CONFIDENTIAL

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HUMANITARIAN SECRETARIAT: WHAT'S IN A NAME?

17. (C) ANGELO ADMITTED THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO PROGRESS
IN LAUNCHING A PROPOSED UNDP HUMANITARIAN SECRETARIAT,
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BECAUSE THE GOZ HAS NOT GIVEN UNDP A GREEN LIGHT. (THE
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THIS INITIATIVE.) ANGELO SAID THAT HE MAY HAVE NO
OPTION BUT TO MOVE AHEAD AND ESTABLISH THIS
UNILATERALLY, BRINGING IT IN UNDER THE GOZ'S RADAR USING
THE RUBRIC OF A "RELIEF AND RECOVERY UNIT". ABSENT GOZ
APPROVAL OR TERMS OF REFERENCE, HE WOULD BILL THIS AS AN
INTEGRAL PART OF UNDP PROGRAMMING.

PROGRAM THE PROBLEM

18. (C) ANGELO SAID THAT THIS APPROACH (ALSO A TROJAN
HORSE) WOULD PERMIT EXPEDITIOUS PLANNING. NONETHELESS,
IT WOULD REQUIRE COSMETIC PROGRAMS -- CHILD SURVIVAL
NEED ASSESSMENT, ETC. -- BEHIND WHICH IT COULD BEGIN
ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING FOR FOOD DELIVERY MECHANISMS.
SEVERAL OF THE DONORS RIGHTLY BALKED AT THIS. THE DFID
REPRESENTATIVE OBSERVED THAT IT MIGHT BE EASIER TO DO A
NUMBER OF SMALL REGIONAL BILATERAL PROGRAMS UNDER THE
RADAR RATHER THAN A LARGER, MULTILATERAL EFFORT. THE
SWEDES AGREED, POINTING OUT THAT THE FOOD SHORTAGES

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COULD PROVE TO CONFIRM INITIAL ASSUMPTIONS THAT THEY WILL BE LOCALIZED. THE DFID TEAM ALSO REJECTED OUT OF HAND RECENT GOZ SUGGESTIONS THAT A REGIONAL APPROACH BE TAKEN, SINCE IN DFID'S VIEW THIS WOULD PERMIT THE GOZ TO SANITIZE GRANT COMMODITIES THROUGH AN UPRIGHT NEIGHBOR SUCH AS BOTSWANA BEFORE LAYING HANDS ON THE CEREALS FOR GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS.

19. (C) OTHER PARTICIPANTS UNDERLINED THAT THE LACK OF WFP EXPERTISE ON THE GROUND COULD BE A SERIOUS IMPEDIMENT TO AN INDEPENDENT AND ACCURATE ASSESSMENT. ANGELO SAID THAT FOR THE MOMENT HE WAS TAPPING WFP PERSONNEL FROM ZAMBIA AND MOZAMBIQUE TO BRIDGE THE GAP. THERE WAS A FINAL CONSENSUS AMONG THE DONORS THAT NONE OF THEM FAVOR A RELIEF AND RECOVERY UNIT THAT AT THIS TIME GOES BEYOND AN ASSESSMENT, MONITORING AND COORDINATION ROLE. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE SWEDES, EVERYONE WANTED TO SEE WHAT FOOD DELIVERY MECHANISMS COULD BE IDENTIFIED BEFORE COMMITTING RESOURCES.

COMMENT

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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	EB-00
	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	AC-01	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00
	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	BBG-00	PMB-00
	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/005W			

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O 221125Z AUG 01
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9524
INFO SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 HARARE 002480

SIPDIS

DEPT PASS TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

STATE FOR AF, AF/S, AND AF/EPS

USAID FOR AFR/SA, NAN NEWMAN, LANCE DOWNING, AND C.W.T. HAGELMAN; ALSO FOR B/HR/FFP JON BRAUSE

PRETORIA FOR AGATT RICK HELMS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/22/03

TAGS: [PREL](#) [EAID](#) [EAGR](#) [ZI](#)

SUBJECT: UNDP AND DONORS MEET ON FOOD AID FOR ZIMBABWE

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110. (C) THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT A DOMESTIC SHORTFALL OF CEREALS IS A CERTAINTY, BUT THERE WAS NO CONCLUSIVE AGREEMENT ON HOW TO HANDLE THIS OR TO WHAT THE EXTENT OF EXTERNAL NON-COMMERCIAL ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE REQUIRED. FOR ITS PART, THE GOZ INPUT INTO THE MOST RECENT SADC FOOD EARLY WARNING SYSTEM REPORT INDICATES THAT THE GOZ PLANS TO PURCHASE COMMERCIALY 544,000 MT OF CEREAL AND RESTORE THE SGR TO A CARRYOVER SURPLUS OF 500,000 MT OF MAIZE AND 200,000 MT OF WHEAT. THE WFP IS STILL IN THE WATCHING PHASE (REFTEL) AND THE UNDP HERE FINDS ITSELF FLANKED BY A RECALCITRANT AND POLITICIZED GOZ ON ONE SIDE, AND SKEPTICAL DONORS ON THE OTHER.

111. (C) GIVEN THE WELTER OF CONFLICTING FIGURES AND APPROACHES, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/PLANNING WILL BE NECESSARY BEFORE A COHERENT BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL USG PROPOSAL CAN BE PLACED ON THE TABLE. THE MISSION WILL CONSULT WIDELY AND PROVIDE INPUT AS URGENTLY AS POSSIBLE. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED THAT ZIMBABWE'S EVOLVING ECONOMIC INSTABILITY, DRIVEN BY A STEEPLY DECLINING ZD AND UNREALISTIC EXCHANGE RATES, WILL HAVE A HEAVY AND MEASURABLE IMPACT ON THE FUTURE FOOD SITUATION AND THE GOZ'S ABILITY TO PURCHASE GRAIN COMMERCIALY, BOTH DOGMATICALLY AND FOR IMPORTS. THUS FAR THE GOZ DOES NOT SEEM TO BE TAKING THIS INTO ACCOUNT IN ITS CALCULATIONS.

ROTH

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